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Secretary of State Jim Edgar joins tutor and student team from his workplace literacy program for a reading instructional session.

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Few efforts can promise greater returns than Illinois' campaign to promote adult literacy. When one adult in five is unable to understand operating manuals, office memoranda, or labels on dangerous materials, the need for businesses to become involved is obvious.

When you consider that the American workforce is ranked 49th in literacy among United Nations countries, you can understand why it is important to get behind the literacy effort NOW.

I urge you to join others across the state in meeting this challenge.

For information, please contact your local literacy provider or the Secretary of State's Literacy Office, (217) 785-6921.

Jim Edgar

Jim Edgar

Secretary of State and
State Librarian



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EXAMPLES OF BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT

PROVIDING A WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAM:

HALSEY TAYLOR/THERMOS COMPANY in Freeport, Illinois, with support from labor leaders, holds two basic skills classes each week. Employees are grouped according to their reading level. Instruction occurs on site and employees are encouraged to participate. Highland Community College coordinates the program and provides instructors.

LENDING TIME, TALENT AND RESOURCES:

SUNDSTRAND CORPORATION has been a vital part of the Rockford Area Literacy Council since its inception. Sundstrand is represented on both the Council and the Advisory Board. Over the past three years, the corporation has donated \$15,000 to the local effort and has been generous with in-kind contributions.

ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES TO VOLUNTEER AS TUTORS:

NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY encourages employees to serve as community volunteers through an employee bulletin, a periodic survey, and sponsorship of a volunteer fair. Many employees have been matched with Chicago literacy programs through these efforts.